

friends, his body was covered with blood, and his face bruised all over.

His friends seeing his sorry plight said that this was what they had feared. (Hazrat) Abdullah replied that the infidels had never before appeared to him more contemptible and weak.

STORY 21.

FEARLESSNESS IN CONFESSING A FAULT MORAL COURAGE OF A VERY HIGH ORDER.

INFORMATION was brought to the Prophet that a large Roman Army was preparing to invade Arabia. The Prophet as a precautionary measure forestalled the Romans and with an Army of several thousand marched to the north.

The Arabian-sun shone with dazzling light and the heat was scorching. The temptation to stay at home and enjoy life under the cool shade of palm-groves was very great, and some men, the majority of whom were hypocrites shirked their duty under various pretexts. They did not march with the army of Islam and lagged behind.

The Roman invasion proved to be a hoax. The Muslim army returned to headquarters after a long absence and the Prophet demanded explanation from all the laggards for their laxity in discipline in thus shirking their obvious duty. The hypocrites made various plausible excuses and escaped censure. But (Hazrat) Kaab bin Malik who was a true Muslim disdained to tell lies frankly and unequivocally admitted his guilt stating in a true Muslim spirit that he had never been more fit and better off than in those days consequently had no reasonable ground for non-participation in the Jihad and deserved the severest condemnation and censure for his act of